

Maryland State Board of Victim Services Meeting
Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
Wednesday, October 26, 2022
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Participating Members:

Heather Amador for Kunle Adeyemo, Esq.
Anne Bean
Tiffany Bright for Attorney General Brian Frosh
Jessica Dickerson for Secretary Sam Abed
Lou Gieszl
Theresa Hiegel
Laure Kimbles for Sheriff Gary Hofmann
Molly Knipe
Anne Colt Leitess, Esq.
Steve Levin, Esq.
Jill Ritter
Alonzo Robertson, Esq.
Lisa Smith, Esq.
Jeanne Yeager

Guests:

Jessica Daigle, Esq., Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's Office
Stephanie Erdice, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention Youth, and Victim Services Staff:

Rebecca Allyn, Marianne Camino

I. Introductions and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. Ms. Allyn conducted a roll call and guests introduced themselves.

II. Consent Agenda

The consent agenda contained the July 2022 Board meeting minutes and updates from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services.

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services Updates: The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and Domestic Violence Centers (GDVC) grant applications are currently being reviewed. A Technical Assistance Session was held last week for Victims of Crime Assistance (VOCA) grantees to provide guidance on unallowable costs. The Grant Management System (GMS) has been reopened for VOCA and applicants can make changes to their applications and resubmit by 11/14/22. Applications will be processed on a rolling basis.

Ms. Yeager made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Ms. Dickerson seconded the motion.

All members were in favor and the consent agenda was approved.

III. MSBVS Membership

Ms. Allyn informed members that there is one public member vacancy on the Board and two members' terms ended on 6/30/22. Since it is an election year, the Board cannot make any membership changes until the new Governor takes office in 2023, and those members will serve until either reappointed or replaced, and the vacancy will be filled at that time. Ms. Allyn also shared that the Vice-Chair role is still vacant and to contact her if anyone is interested.

IV. MSBVS Initiatives

- *2023 Crime Victims' Rights Week*

National Crime Victims' Rights Week will be April 23-29, 2023. The 33rd Memorial Services for Crime Victims and Their Families will be hosted by the Calvert, Cecil, Montgomery and Wicomico County State's Attorneys' Offices on Sunday, April 23, 2023.

The 2023 Maryland Crime Victims' Rights Conference will be held during the week of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The 2022 conference survey collected topics attendees would like to see at the next conference, which included male sexual assault victims in shelter, sex trafficking, mobile intervention programs, mental health, immigrant rights and services, victims/survivors perspective, bereavement, advocacy and court education for children, homicide services, new restitution laws, LGBTQ, secondary trauma, victims of juvenile offenders, Secretary of State address confidentiality program, data on the effect of criminal justice reform initiatives on victim services, and school violence.

Ms. Allyn asked members if there are any topics that stood out to them, or if there are any additional topics they would like to be presented on at the conference. Members were in favor of the following topics: the Secretary of State Address Confidentiality Program, remote hearings for protective orders, hospital intervention programs, elder trafficking and benefits, LGBTQ, victim notification, and principles and practices of balanced and restorative justice. Ms. Allyn will use these topics as a starting point for developing the conference agenda and securing speakers.

- *Maryland Victims of Crime (MVOC) Grant*

Ms. Allyn shared that the Maryland Victims of Crime grant will be issued next year and the priorities of the grant will need to be reviewed and updated by the Board. From the initial discussion, members were in support of enhancing virtual services as a priority for the grant.

- *Victim Response to Mass Violence Subcommittee*

The Board assisted the Active Assailant Interdisciplinary Workgroup (AAIWG) with developing guidance for victim response for mass violence incidents and the Board provided input for the Emergency People Search and Recovery Guidance Document. The AAIWG is accepting feedback on the updated guidance document by 11/4/22. Ms. Allyn will re-share the guidance document with members for their review and any feedback.

- *Victim/Witness Relocation Program*

Board members met in September to continue reviewing and discussing the Victim/Witness Relocation Program guidelines. The current recommendations are to expand the program to cases prior to an arrest in order to increase the rate of victim and witness cooperation with an investigation/case and victim/witness safety, to include a separate section for returning to court, to include a contract as a requirement for a victim/witness to be engaged in the program, to include juvenile cases, and to include maximum amounts for each funding category (lodging, transportation, etc.) and to contact the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association (MSAA) if more than the maximum is needed, elaborate on reimbursement process for MSAA, add FAQs about the defense accessing program information, utilizing gas gift cards, and not entering into a contract with a vendor.

- *Online Victim Services Resources*

Ms. Allyn asked members to review the victims' rights and resources webpages on the Office's website for recommendations of additional information and resources to include. One addition from members was to add information on human trafficking on the Victim Resources webpage, not just the Human Trafficking Hotline on the homepage. The following websites were also recommended to be included on the resources webpage:

<https://mdcourts.gov/legalhelp/domesticviolence>,
<https://mdcourts.gov/legalhelp/peaceorders>,
<https://mcasa.org/survivors/sali>

Ms. Allyn will re-share the webpages with members for their review and input.

V. Old/New Business

Ms. Leites shared information on legislation that is anticipated to be introduced in the next legislative session. Ms. Allyn reminded members that if there is any legislation they want the Board to consider supporting or opposing, to send the bill information to her as soon as possible.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:05 a.m.